

LAKE WAIKERE

- 1. Ski Club Cove**
Good prospects in wadeable bay fishing drop-off over and amongst reed stands. Sinking line with slow retrieve using bully imitations works well.
- 2. Deep Water Point**
This point extends into Waikere's deepest water. Good shore based fishing with fast sinking lines. Rainbows of 12 months of age taken at 2.2kg.

LAKE TAHAROA

- 3. Sin Bin**
Western area of the largest of the Kai Iwi Lakes. A favourite area to wade and fish to sighted fish. Fish are consistently taken in this area.
- 4. Promenade Point**
Promenade Point is a sand based peninsula, which reaches out to deep water drop-offs. An excellent place for casting and wading with fish taken as they cruise the edges searching for Koura. Fast sinkers with crayfish imitations work well.
- 5. Western Bight**
Shallow bay with wadeable drop-off. A deeper hole exists closer to shore where good fish can be taken at times. Easily accessed from camp ground car park.
- 6. Boat Ramp**
Directly out from Boat Ramp is a good ledge to fish with cruising trout regularly taken. Wading to edge can be difficult when the lake is above normal levels.
- 7. Stumps**
Good area to fish with a wadeable drop-off within reach. Fish are quite often encountered swimming around behind Anglers in the shallows whilst fishing deep.
- 8. Camp Ground Road**
The public road stops at this point but a foot track allows access around the entire lake. Good fishing can be had around drops with shallow areas having rushes where the occasional fish can be seen cruising.

Lake Kai-Iwi (No trout present)

Fish & Game NEW ZEALAND

Kelly Twichel 57.0cm - 2.17kg



Kai-Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing



Should you require any further information this can be obtained by contacting the

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Jonzone 0205

Trolling in Taharoa

By Ian Twitchel

The Kai Iwi Lakes, and particularly Lake Taharoa, can be a very productive fishery.

Boat fishing and, in particular, trolling, has always been a reliable method of fishing these lakes.



As with most fisheries, local knowledge is the key so, hopefully, some of the tips in this article will help boat anglers to succeed on the Kai Iwi Lakes.

Obviously one of the major keys to success is knowing where the fish are! In Taharoa the usual answer is down near the bottom, as the majority of trout caught in this lake will usually have a mixture of bullies, crabs and crayfish in their stomachs. Therefore, as most of the food is on the bottom, which is where your lures need to be.

In our experience, lead cored lines are best to achieve this. These lines change colour every 10m to help the angler know how much line is out at any time. At a boat speed of 1 to 2 knots these lines typically sink about 2.0 metres per colour. (e.g. 5 colours out = lures at 20metres approx). A depth finder will give you a better idea of how much line to let out to be fishing near the bottom. Once you know the depth and have the correct length of line out, the next step is to simply troll along the drop-off, keeping to the right depth.

Trout can be caught at any time of the day, however, you may need to experiment with the depth.

During the cooler months (May to September) fish are often in shallower water and 4-6 colours will usually catch fish.

During the warmer months (October to April) they tend to be deeper and 10 colours or more may be needed.

Lures that work consistently in Lake Taharoa are Cobras and Tasmanian Devils in green and yellow, gold, black and gold spotted. Toby's and Flamingo's are other favourites with the black/gold Toby well worth a try on a dull day. Use traces of 7-10 metres and make sure the hook is sharp for those lighter takes.

Trout are likely to be found anywhere in the lake, but the popular spots are in front of the Pines Beach Camping Ground, the Jetty and the Western Shore from the Sandspit (Promenade Point) past the Kai Iwi Farmhouse.

Lake Waikere also trolls well, and can be fished using the same methods as for Lake Taharoa, but watch out for those submerged ski lane ropes, they gobble up lures.



Jigging for Trout in the Kai Iwi Lakes

By Barry Birchall

Jigging is a very successful method of fishing the Kai Iwi lakes and is second only to fly-fishing. Trout definitely give a more exciting fight caught on a jig than they do when trying to tow eight colours of lead line.

The most important factor, however, is the wind strength. Ideally you need a gentle to moderate breeze to quietly drift your boat along. If you cannot keep a 25 gram jig in contact with the bottom of the lake then you are moving too fast, and an anchor should be deployed to slow down your drift.

Line weight of 3.5 kilogram breaking strain on a small spinning reel, and a good whippy rod with jigs from 10 to 25 grams is all you need. Use as light a line as you can get away with, as long as you can feel it bouncing along the bottom. Tie your jig to your main line with a Uni Knot or Surgeons Loop. I have found chrome a lethal lure and the Grim Reaper jigs to be very successful during daylight with pink/white, green/yellow or blue/white jigs better during change of light.

Single hooks on your jigs can be dressed with yellow, red or pearl flash. This will add extra flash and are best attached to jigs with a pair of small split rings.

A second "string to your bow" is the use of an artificial fly about 600 mm above your jig. Tie a short 6.5 kg trace of approximately 300 mm in length. Connect this trace to the main line with either a Double Overhand knot or with the smallest swivel that you can find.

The heavier trace tends to hang the fly out from the main line and cause less tangling.

Everyone has his or her favourite flies. The most success I have had has been with Rabbit flies, Ginger Micks and Dark Marabou. Some days the trout take only the jig, others only the fly. It is one of the mysteries of trout fishing.

A short gentle movement of the rod is all that is required when jigging. Check every now and then that your jig has not been

fouled with weed or that the fly has become tangled. When the trout takes, they can be quite gentle on the fly but are usually distinctive strikes on the jig.



Brian Snooks (64.0cm - 3.194kg)

Once you have a strike, take some landmarks, then quietly row back and jig the same area again. I once caught 6 trout jigging over the same area on Lake Taharoa. Remember to take your landing net, the larger the better.

Try jigging with the kids. This is a trout fishing method that they will enjoy!



Welcome to the Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Resource.



Fish and Game New Zealand, Northland Region sincerely hopes that the information provided in this brochure will assist you in experiencing success freshwater angling at the Kai Iwi Lakes.

The Kai-Iwi Lakes are situated 25.8 kilometres north-west of Dargaville along State Highway 12 near the small settlement of Kaihu. The turnoff to the lakes is signposted at Omamari Road, which is on the regions Twin Coast Discovery Tourist Route.

The lakes make a fantastic place to visit for their camping, swimming, water-skiing and fishing qualities. First time visitors find the areas beauty captivating, hence the huge influx of summertime visitors during holiday periods.

The Kai Iwi Lakes is the major location for trout fishing in the Northland Fish and Game Region. The Lakes are considered to be the jewel of the region, having the most significant Rainbow Trout fishery. The fish grow very well and are of an excellent eating quality, with some anglers claiming the flesh colour and taste to be as good as, if not better, than trout caught in Lake Taupo.

The lakes at Kai Iwi have no inflowing or out flowing river or stream. This prevents any natural recruitment occurring, as any trout spawning on the white sandy lakebed is unsuccessful.

Fish and Game New Zealand, Northland Region, manages this fishery as a "Put and Take" Fishery. The trout are purchased from the Fish and Game New Zealand, Eastern Region hatchery in Rotorua, from revenue obtained through the purchase of fishing licences.

The trout are released in early May of each year with an average length of 150mm. It takes the trout approximately 10 months to attain their legal length, 300mm, which is when they are able to be caught for release or eating.

Trout were first released in the Kai Iwi Lakes in 1968 and since then there have been releases of Rainbow Trout in most years. Fish and Game New Zealand, Northland Region, now annually stocks Lake Taharoa with 2000 Rainbow Fingerlings and 200 fingerlings are placed into Lake Waikere. Lake Kai Iwi is not stocked with trout.

Anglers will tend to experience the best angling during the cooler months of autumn and winter when the lakes surface water temperatures are cooler. Fish move into the shallower areas of the lakes during these periods as they search for easy food. It is this seasonal habitual behaviour that brings fish into the range of the shore-based angler and is the best time for the novice to experience superb angling. During the summer months fishing is best carried out in deeper water as fish seek the cooler water and less disturbance from other lake users.

Food species that form a large part of the trouts diet includes Dwarf Inanga, Fresh Water Crab, Crayfish (Koura), Bullies, mosquito fish and insects.

The various methods of angling described within the brochure are methods used by experienced and successful anglers fishing these Lakes.



Fly fishing at the Kai Iwi Lakes

By Warren Ruddell (An experienced Fly Fisherman)

Lake Taharoa is excellent for the beginner fisherman, plenty of room to cast without getting your line caught in trees or snags and with little competition between anglers to fish any position on the lake.

The lakes are deep with a large proportion of the trout feeding on the littoral zone. One needs to wade out up to their chest close to the lake drop off in order to cast to the littoral zone. An extra fast sinking line, not a super fast one that digs itself into the sand, is ideal to target these fish.

Adopt your own technique, double hauling or casting high, taking advantage of the wind behind you, or whatever it takes to obtain the distance out into the deeper water. Laying the shooting part of your line into a floating foam bin strapped to your side will prevent you dragging the line out of the water, or have it tangling in your hand.

Fishing these depths of water with heavy sinking lines makes it difficult to detect a trout taking your fly. Most trout pick up the fly as they swim towards you, and it will feel similar to your line being pulled through weed.

The weight of the line and a relatively fast retrieve, allows you time to set the hook. If a gradual weight goes on or off the rod tip, strike. When fishing to rising trout, which are generally in the calmer conditions, present your fly several metres ahead of the trout taking the chance of the trout coming across it naturally.

In calm conditions, lighten and lengthen your traces using slimly dressed flies.

Wind patterns on the water presents surface camouflage to any disturbance you may cause while casting your line. The presentation of your fly or the errors you make in retrieving your line is not critical and therefore the trout are more likely to strike at your lure.

If you have the luxury of choosing the time to fish the lakes, coincide your night time fishing with when the moon is out, as the lakes are deep and clear, the light filters through the water. Nothing is more tempting for a trout than a big black fly moving along a sandy bottom. There is always an exception, but most of the takes are when the clouds uncover the moon.

When and if you hook up to a trout, because you may be late in detecting the strike, rather than bolt, the trout are inclined to shake their heads in the sand trying to discard the hook. Therefore, do not hold your rod too high or they will manage to shake it out, keep it halfway and do not walk back from the deep too soon or the line will be dragged into the sand.

The best fly patterns to use in these lakes vary in type, shape and size for the conditions and location.

Flies that can be successful include: Red Setter, Craig's Night Time, Black Phantom, Scotch Poacher, Mrs Simpson, Hamel's Killer, Fuzzy Wuzzy and Parsons Glory.

The best fly is the one you have the most confidence in and if trout do ignore it, change the speed or action of your retrieve before you change the fly.

